

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
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STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7479
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
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USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 12455

USEEC

DEPARTMENT PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY FOR AMBASSADOR STRAUSS

GENEVA FOR USDEL MTN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, EEC
SUBJECT: PRE-COUNCIL SITUATION ON MTN

REF: BRUSSELS 11979

1. MISSION HAS DISCUSSED WITH SEVERAL MEMBER STATE REPRESENTATIVES EC PREPARATIONS FOR MTN CONSIDERATION BY FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL NEXT WEEK. MTN WAS RAISED LATE IN THE EVENING OF JUNE 22 AT COREPER SESSION PREPARING FOR COUNCIL. BASIS OF DISCUSSION WAS: (A) A COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL (DOCUMENT NO. COM (78) 275 FINAL OF JUNE 16)
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WHICH WE HAVE FORWARDED TO MTN DEL AND WASHINGTON AND (B) A COMMISSION DEBRIEFING ON RESULTS OF WASHINGTON TALKS.

2. MTN ISSUES WILL BE DISCUSSED DURING SECOND DAY OF FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, JUNE 27. ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE WILL CONVENE IN LUXEMBOURG ALONG WITH THE

COUNCIL. ONE SOURCE TOLD US THAT PURPOSE OF THE 113 COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE TO DRAFT SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR THE COMMISSION TO FOLLOW IN COORDINATION WITH THE 113 COMMITTEE, IN THE FINAL DAYS BEFORE JULY 15. THIS DOCUMENT WOULD THEN BE APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL ON JUNE 27. SEVERAL SOURCES EXPECT THE ARTICLE 113 COMMITTEE TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN GENEVA DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF JULY AND TO MEET IN FAIRLY CONTINUOUS SESSION FROM THEN ON.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT UK, AND ESPECIALLY FRANCE, EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH WASHINGTON TALKS DURING JUNE 22 COREPER SESSION. ONE SOURCE TOLD US THAT THE BRITISH SAID THAT TRADE MINISTER DELL WILL SEEK FURTHER PRECISION FROM THE COMMISSION IN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL ON JUNE 27 ON THE STATE OF THE SELECTIVE SAFEGUARDS NEGOTIATION AND ON SUBSIDIES/COUNTERVAILING DUTIES. HE WILL ALSO PLEAD FOR IMPROVED ACCESS FOR AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

4. AS FOR FRANCE, WE UNDERSTAND FROM NON-FRENCH SOURCE THAT FRENCH DELEGATION COMPLAINED AT JUNE 22 MEETING THAT THE COMMISSION DID NOT USE THE CONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL LIST IN WASHINGTON; THAT THE STRAUSS REQUESTS ON RULES OF ORIGIN AND A CODE ON COUNTERFEITING DO NOT FIT INTO THE MTN AND THAT THERE IS STILL NO BALANCE BETWEEN THE TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF PART OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. A FRENCH SOURCE

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CONFIRMED THE ABOVE, ADDING THAT FRENCH IMPRESSION OF WASHINGTON TALKS WAS THAT THEY HAD FOCUSED ON CALENDAR DATES BUT HAD BEEN EMPTY ON SUBSTANCE. IN HIS VIEW, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO BEGIN NOW A GLOBAL NEGOTIATION SO AS TO ESTABLISH THE NECESSARY TARIFF/NON-TARIFF MEASURE BALANCE. HE THOUGHT THAT MINISTER DENIAUX WOULD MAKE THESE POINTS WHEN HE SEES AMBASSADOR STRAUSS ON JUNE 25. FRENCH DID NOT RAISE MONETARY LINK AT COREPER SESSION.

5. ONE SOURCE OFFERED US COMMENTS ON THE HAFERKAMP-USHIBA MEETING IN WASHINGTON. HE SAID THAT COMMISSION HAD INFORMED MEMBER STATES AT JUNE 22 MEETING THAT JAPANESE HAD MADE A NEW TARIFF OFFER. COMMISSION DESCRIBED THIS OFFER AS NOT SUFFICIENT. ON SELECTIVE SAFEGUARDS, USHIBA MADE FAMILIAR LINK WITH ELIMINATION OF QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS. HAFERKAMP REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT EC CANNOT DO THIS IMMEDIATELY; THAT IT IS A LONG PROCESS WHICH WILL TAKE SEVERAL YEARS TO ACCOMPLISH. (ITALIANS HAD TOLD US EARLIER THAT THEY WOULD NEVER CONSENT TO ELIMINATION OF ALL QRS AGAINST JAPAN.) HINTON

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